

FACT SHEET



Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site Well #3 Subsite Hastings, Nebraska

February 2001

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a proposed plan to address contaminated ground water and soil at the Well #3 Subsite, part of the Hastings Ground Water Contamination Superfund site in Hastings, Nebraska. The Well #3 Subsite is located in the central industrial area of Hastings between B and Second Streets and Maple and St. Joseph Avenues.

EPA is asking for your comments on the proposed plan. Although the proposed plan includes EPA's recommendation for the Well #3 Subsite, a final decision will not be made until EPA reviews comments from the public. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

SITE BACKGROUND

EPA began investigating sources of ground water contamination in the Hastings area in 1984 after high levels of contaminants were found in three municipal wells, used to supply drinking water to the public. In 1986, the site was placed on the National Priorities List, a list of sites in the nation eligible for investigation and remediation under the Superfund program.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

EPA will hold a public meeting to provide information on the Well #3 Subsite proposed plan. The public meeting will also include a discussion of the proposed plan for the Area-Wide portion of the Hastings Ground Water Contamination site, which is open for public comment through March 16, 2001. The meeting will be held:

**Thursday, March 1, 2001
7:00 p.m.
Central Community College
Hastings Campus
Cedar Fir Room, Dawson Building
East Highway 6
Hastings, Nebraska**

EPA will take comments on the Well #3 Subsite proposed plan through March 28, 2001. Comments can be made at the public meeting, or sent to EPA at the address listed below:

**Diane Huffman
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Fax (913) 551-7066**

EPA has divided the site into seven subsites, based on the various sources of the contamination. The Well #3 Subsite is named for the former municipal well M-3, which was removed from service in 1985 because of the presence of carbon tetrachloride. Carbon tetrachloride is an ingredient in grain fumigants. A grain storage facility was formerly located in the area of the Well #3 Subsite. At another area of the subsite, soil and ground water were found to be contaminated with chlorinated solvents, such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). TCE is commonly used as a degreaser and PCE is used in the dry cleaning process.

Cleanup work began at the subsite in 1991. Since that time, the carbon tetrachloride and solvent contamination in the soil has been cleaned up. This was accomplished by using a soil vapor extraction system to reduce the level of contaminants in the soil.

The carbon tetrachloride contamination in the ground water was cleaned up by pumping the contaminated water out of the ground and treating it. It was found that this action also reduced the solvent contamination in the ground water. However, the concentration of solvents in the ground water continues to be above safe drinking water standards.

PROPOSED PLAN

Although progress has been made at the subsite, EPA believes continued action is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In the proposed plan, EPA is recommending that the ground water pump and treat system continue to operate until the ground water meets safe drinking water standards, for the subsite contaminants. EPA estimates this will take about 15 years and cost approximately \$330,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Well #3 proposed plan and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination at the site and the work that has been completed. These documents are part of the Administrative Record, available at the following locations:

Hastings Public Library
517 West 4th Street
Hastings, Nebraska 68901

EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 7
Office of External Programs
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003 or toll-free at 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: huffman.diane@epa.gov